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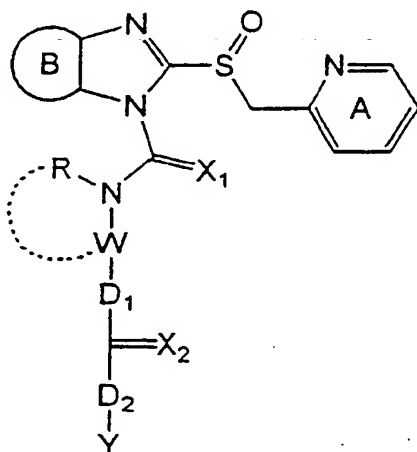
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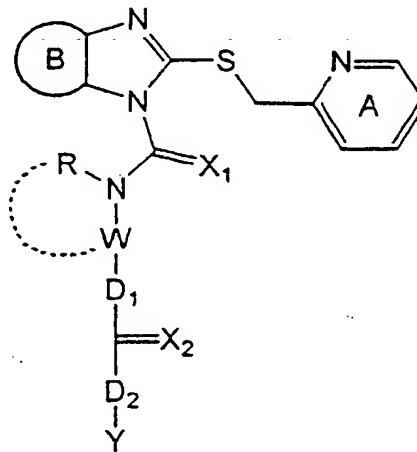
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(54) Title: **PRODRUGS OF IMIDAZOLE DERIVATIVES, FOR USE AS PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS IN THE TREATMENT OF E.G. PEPTIC ULCERS**



(I)



(V)

(57) Abstract: An imidazole compound represented by the formula (I), a salt thereof and a compound of the formula (V), which is one of the intermediates thereof, wherein each symbol is as defined in the present specification. The compound of the present invention shows a superior anti-ulcer activity, a gastric acid secretion inhibitory action, a mucosa-protecting action, an anti-Helicobacter pylori action and the like. Since it shows low toxicity, the compound is useful as a pharmaceutical product.